

obvious to modify Fowler et al. to input the difference between the actual spacing and the nominal spacing manually.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant believes it would be helpful to the Examiner to take notice that there are two "worlds" of producing envelopes from a moving web with printed matter thereon:

- (a) the so-called in-line method in which printing, scoring, cutting and folding takes place in one and the same machine, which is what Applicant's invention is directed to; and
- (b) the so-called off-line printing method in which the web has been printed on a separate machine, and weeks may pass before the web is used for producing envelopes.

The last case is rather complicated, as minor changes in the paper length (for example due to humidity) or slippage in the envelope machines, will add up to large registration errors. Therefore, in machines using off-line printed webs, the registration must be constantly monitored and corrected. To do so, the controller (computer) must constantly "know" the position of the image, the speed of the web, the position and

the speed of the cutters, and so on. A great deal of technical effort is therefore required and this technical effort is what Fowler describes and claims in his patent, which the Examiner has cited against Applicant's claims.

In contrast, in accordance with Applicant's method, after the phase position has once been adjusted, there is no need for further corrections as in case (b). Although using the technical effort of case (b) for a machine of case (a) might be possible, it is a technical "overkill" as errors in paper length or slippage do not add as printing and cutting tools are afflicted in the same way.

As set forth in the claims, Applicant's invention provides a method of producing letter envelopes from a moving web of stock material and for positioning a sequence of printed images in their correct positions in relation to a reference edge within envelope blanks cut to size by shaping and separating sections from a web of material after the printing process has been completed. In accordance with the method recited in claims 1 and 2, a blank is removed from the machine and the actual spacing of the printed image from a reference edge is determined. The difference between the determined actual spacing of the printed image from the reference edge and a preset spacing value is computed and this difference is input as a corrective value. In this way, the entire corrective movement

of the printing station vis-a- vis the cutting station is triggered in one single step by presetting a numerical value. The printing gear is not only adjusted very rapidly in this way, but the amount of collected rejects is minimized as well.

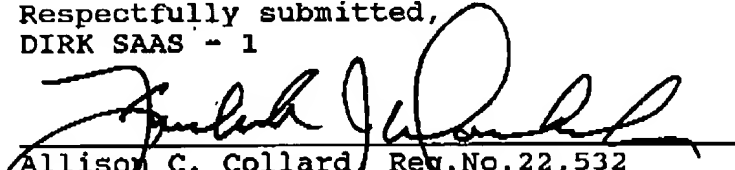
Contrary to the Examiner's position, the Fowler patent fails to disclose the removal of one of the blanks from the machine to determine the spacing of a printed image from a reference edge of the blank. Fowler also does not compute the difference between this determined actual spacing and a preset spacing value or input this computed difference. Rather, up to column 6, line 56, Fowler simply discusses case (a) machines which he takes as the state of the art without saying how these machines are adjusted. In line 57 of column 6, Fowler begins to talk about his invention, namely the addition of a print registration system to the prior art machine or, in other words, converting (a)-type machines into (b)-type machines. But here too, Fowler never (1) determines the actual spacing of the printed image from a reference edge of a blank, (2) computes the difference between a preset spacing value and this determined actual spacing or (3) inputs that difference as a corrective value. The reason is that there is no need or advantage for Fowler to determine this difference. As his controller "knows" where the reference edge should be at a certain moment, it is enough for Fowler to find out whether the edge is later or earlier than anticipated. The controller will then increase or

decrease the speed of some feed rollers accordingly. See Column 8, lines 31-60. As Fowler never knows the difference between the determined actual spacing and a preset spacing value, there is no way for Fowler to input it whether automatically or manually. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Fowler fails to anticipate or render obvious claims 1 and 2.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 3, 2002.


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